

**DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN PERSONALITY-PERFECTION
REFLECTED IN CHARLES DICKENS'S *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*
NOVEL (1843):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



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**DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN PERSONALITY-PERFECTION
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ABSTRACT

The major problem in this study is to show the development of human personality-perfection in Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol novel by using Psychoanalytic approach. The object of this study based on structural elements and Psychoanalytic approach. In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research. The type of this study is from primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is A Christmas Carol novel while the secondary data source is books literary, the author's biography, and the other relevant information. The data collection is collected from library research and the technique of the data is analyzed by descriptive analysis. The result of this study shows the following finding. First, from the structural analysis, it shows that Charles Dickens wants to convey the message how the human personality is subordinated by money and how they develop their personality from the error ways to be better. Second, based on Psychoanalytic analysis, Charles Dickens wants to convey the psychological phenomenon that tends to lead and give the development of human personality transformation in A Christmas Carol novel. He creates someone's heart awareness where the person can change his personality and gives the best selection.

Keyword: Human Personality-Perfection, A Christmas Carol (1843), Psychoanalytic Approach.

A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Human being is created in the world with many kinds of unique characters. It happens from experiences and conditions in their life. The differences experience and condition of every person will create the differences of characters. It is also influenced by environment which gives alteration and development of personality. The personality grows balance with desirability which motivates the people to reach something. It can grow for being better or bad. When people's personalities grow kind, it will bring perfection in their life and will create good relationship to other. In other hand, when the personalities do not grow kind, it will cause many problems in life especially damages relationship to the society.

Development of personality-perfection is key point to develop the human self that organizes the behaviors and attitudes which will create a unique person's character and sometimes it will motivate them to reach their goals. A unique person is supported by psychological which gives difference to any self. The differences of people's personalities are caused by the differences conditions in their environment and their life. It can change and grow in reaction to their environment or perception. From the condition, it will compel a person to change their personality. It can change to be better or bad. The personality can be see from what the person organizes and integrates. Not only that but also it is from life history, development, and perspective. Therefore, the attitude and behavior are something which determines the human quality in social interest.

Ebenezer Scrooge is the major character in *A Christmas Carol* novel. He has the characteristics namely miserly, cold-hearted creditor, stingy, and greedy ways on Christmas Eve. He had done development of his personality to be a good person. His development occurs when he gets guiding from three ghosts namely ghost of Christmas Past, ghost of Christmas Present, and ghost of Christmas Yet

To Come. From here, Scrooge attempts to develop his personality transformation for being a good person.

According to the explanation above, there gets a relationship between literary work and psychoanalytic. The literary work has the same meaning namely as the understanding of human's condition with the mental and inner-self problem. Literature is useful to show the human mental life. So, the psychoanalytic has the relationship to the literary work.

A Christmas Carol novel is one of novel which was written by Charles Dickens. He is a writer and journalistic England. The novel is one of the famous novel which was published first by Chapman and Hall on 19 December 1843 in England. The novel consists of sixty eight pages. *A Christmas Carol* had been adopted to film on 1984 and on 2009 adopted to 3D Computer Animated (Douglas-Fairhurst, Robert. 2006). This novel gives reflection about the development of human personality-perfection that is reflected in the major character.

This novel is started by the introduction of the major character, Ebenezer Scrooge. He is a miserly man, cold hearted creditor, stingy, and greedy ways on Christmas Eve. At the night, Scrooge is come by Marley ghost who is Scrooge work partner in his office. Marley had died seven years ago. He comes to warn Scrooge in order to he does not have the same fetter with Marley who is fettered and punished in beyond. Marley said that Scrooge will be come by three ghosts of Christmas in the Christmas night namely Ghost of Christmas Past, Ghost of Christmas Present, and Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come. It invites Scrooge to see his past, present, and future. It guides Scrooge to be better than before. The end of the story, it shows Scrooge's personality transformation to be better who cares and respects to Christmas and to the others. He gives the best selection to his self.

2. Literature Review

There are two researchers who study on *A Christmas Carol* novel. The first researcher was Sunarsasi (Sanata Dharma University, 2002) entitled *The Cold- and Closed-Heart Character of Ebenezer Scrooge, the Main Character in Charles Dickens*. This thesis discusses *A Christmas Carol* novel by Charles Dickens. Her analysis focuses on Ebenezer Scrooge as the main character of the novel. The researcher analyzes the novel using Psychological approach. The second research was conducted by Siahaan Elfina (University Of Sumatra Utara Faculty Of Letters English Department Medan, 2010) entitled *An Analysis of Moral Lesson in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*. The main point of this research paper is analyzing good and bad person's attitude as the standard norm of moral lesson in the society. The researcher uses extrinsic approach to analyze the novel. In this research, the researcher focuses on development of human personality-perfection reflected in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* novel (1843): A Psychoanalytic Approach.

The similarities of the previous study and this study are analyzing Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* novel as the data source. The difference of previous study with this research is the issue and approach. Here, the researcher will research about the development of human personality-perfection, Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*.

3. Problem Statement

Based on the phenomena mentioned above, the researcher formulates the problem of the study. The problem is how development of human personality-perfection is reflected in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* (1843).

4. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the objective of the study is to analyze Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* novel based on structural element

and to analyze Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* novel using Psychoanalytic approach.

5. Benefit of the Study

From this research, the researcher hopes that this study has the benefits that are divided into theoretical and practical benefit, they are as follows.

a. Theoretical Benefit

The researcher hopes this result can be useful as references, contribution and additional information to the larger body of knowledge especially for the literary study on Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* (1843).

b. Practical Benefit

The result of this research hopefully to enrich the researcher's knowledge and her experience dealing with psychoanalytic approach in deeper. Then, it is also hoped can be useful input for the other researcher in analyzing *A Christmas Carol* into different approach.

6. Underlying Theory

a. Notion of Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis is the part of psychological study that focuses on personality of human being. It is a method of therapy personality disturbances and technique for investigating an individuals unconscious thoughts and feeling (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 86). Sigmund Freud proposes this of personality organization according to this model psyche's life can be represented by three levels: the conscious, the preconscious, and the unconscious each of them have different content of thought (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 86). Freud (Feist, 1985: 25) states that consciousness plays as relatively minor role in psychoanalytic

theory. It is the only level of mental life directly available to us. Further, Further, (Feist, 1985: 23) states that “the ideas can reach consciousness from two different directions. The first is from perceptual conscious system and the second is from the mental structure: Example of the material that might be found in human unconscious includes a forgotten trauma is childhood, hidden feelings of hostility toward parent and represent sexual desires of which human unaware. Such unconscious material is responsible for much of human everyday behavior.

According to Freud (Hall, 1985: 30) unconscious material remains hidden away until it finds expression in our dreams or fantasies (were it is usually disguised) or in our conscious association to material in our dreams. Freud is not the first to focus on the important of unconscious process in understanding human function but he gives the concept of an unconscious life and empirical status. He gives great attention on the importance unconscious process in the understanding of human’s action. He gives argument that he unconscious is not only known as a hypothetical abstraction but it can be known from the reality and we can be proved it in real life.

b. Structure of Personality

Freud believes that the individual’s personality is the scene a never-ending battle. On one had there are primitive and unacceptable drives striving for expression, while on the other hand there are forces trying to deny or disguise their impulses. There are three type of psychoanalytic personality structure: *id*, *ego*, and *superego*.

1. The *Id*

The *Id* is the biological aspect and the original system in personality. The *id* represents the biological substation of humans, the sources of all drive energy (Pervin, 1984: 77). The *Id* refers to exclusive to the

primitively, instinctive, and inherited aspects of personality (Hjelle and Ziegler 1992: 88). The *Id* closely relates to the biology urges. The *Id* responds automatically to sources of irritation, there by promptly removing the tension which the irritant elicits (Hjelle and Ziegler 1992: 89). The *id* forms a mental image of an objective previously associated with satisfaction of basic need (Hjelle and Ziegler 1992: 89). The *id* has instinctive aspects of personality that seeks immediate gratification of impulses, operates on the pleasure principle.

2. The *Ego*

Hall and Lindzey (1981: 37) state that the *ego* is operated the reality principle that means gratification of instinct it delayed until an optimum time when human being can get the most pleasure with the least of unpleasant consequences. The *ego* thus helps ensure the safety and self preservation of the organism (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 90). Freud (in Healy, 1930: 38) states some characteristics of *ego* “it is a coherent organization of mental process, it just as instinct plays great role in the *id*. So perceptions play a great part in the *ego* and it is the representative of the external world on reality “*ego* functions as a means of reaching the reality of what is demanded by *id*. This is the reason why *ego* is called as the principle of reality.

3. The *Superego*

Superego is the sociological aspect that represents the moral branch of our functioning, containing the ideals we strict for and the punishment (guilt) we expect when we have gone against our ethical code (Pervin, 1984: 76). The *superego* many functions on a very primitive level, being relatively incapable of reality testing that incapable of modifying its action depending on circumstances (Pervin, 1984: 76). There are two parts of the *superego*:

- 1) The *ego* ideals include the rules and standards for good behaviors. These behaviors include those which are approved of by parental and other authority figures. Obeying these rules leads to feeling of pride, value, and accomplishment.
- 2) The conscience includes information about things that are viewed as bad by parents and society. These behaviors are often forbidden and lead to bad consequences, punishments, of feelings of guilt and be more.

The *superego* acts to perfect and civilize our behavior. It works to suppress all unacceptable urges of the *id* and struggles to make the *ego* act upon idealistic standards rather than upon realistic principle. The *superego* presents in the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious. The goal of the *superego* is to decide whether something is right or wrong in accordance with the moral standards of society. The *superego* produces feeling anxiety and guilt in order to warn when the individual thinks about behaving in morally unacceptable way. According to Hall and Lindzey (1970: 34) its conscience punishes wrong behaviors, and its *ego* ideals rewards right behavior.

A. Structural Elements of the Novel

1. Character and Characterization

According to Kennedy (1983:45) “Character is an imagined person who inhabits a story therefore they can not be expected to have all attribute of real human beings”. There are two kinds of character, namely major character and minor character. Major characters are important in a story because they have a part in a most of the story. While minor characters have a function to make the story more alive and to support the major characters (Kennedy, 1983:45).

2. Plot

According to Klarer (1999:15) plot is logical interaction of the various thematic elements of a text which lead to a change of the original situation as presented at the outset of the narrative.

a. Exposition

Exposition is the opening that sets the scene, introduces the main characters, tell us what happened before the story opened, and provides any other background information that we need in order to understand and care about the events to follow (Kennedy, 1983: 8).

b. Complication

Koesnoesoebroto (1988: 52) argues that “Complication run a umber of crisis that defined as a turn in the action that affects the life of one or more of the major characters in some way to final culminating or climax.”

c. Climax

Climax is moment of greatest tension at which the outcome is to be decided. Koesnoesoebroto (1988: 36) argues that “Climax is the point of highest emotional intensity.” He (1988: 44) adds that “Climax is a point at which the fortune of the protagonist changes for the better or the worse o at which the protagonist undergoes a change of heart or mind.”

d. Resolution

Koesnoesoebroto (1988: 37) states that “The resolution or denouement presents the outcome of the conflict. After the resolution, what remain moves swiftly to the conclusion, i.e., the end of the story from the novel.

3. Setting

According to Klarer (1999:25) the term 'setting' denotes the location, historical period, and social surroundings in which the action of text develops. Authors hardly ever choose a setting for its own sake, but rather embed a story in a particular context of time and place in order to support action, characters, and narrative perspective from an additional level. Setting is in sense, the time, place, and concrete situation of the narrative, the web of environment in which characters spin out their destinies. In a good story, setting is so well integrated with plot and character that the reader is hardly aware of it Connolly, (in Koesnoesoebroto (1988: 79).

4. Point of View

Based on Kennedy (1983: 74) states that style refers to the individual traits or characteristic of a piece of writing to write a particular words that the writer comes to recognize as habitat or customary. Style includes grammatical structure, sentence construction, diction, figurative language, etc.

5. Style

Based on Kennedy (1983: 74) states that style refers to the individual traits or characteristic of a piece of writing to write a particular words that the writer comes to recognize as habitat or customary. Style includes grammatical structure, sentence construction, diction, figurative language, etc.

6. Theme

The theme is subject point, in addition theme can be called as a meaning or a point in the story (Barnet, 1963:15), but as Robert Frost holds in Barnet (1963:16), we should not think of the theme as equivalent to or a substitution for the whole story. It is the point what the happenings add up top, what the story is about the sum story, the center, the moving and the principle of unity.

B. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study, the researcher uses qualitative research. The researcher intends analyzing the structural element on the Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* (1843) and describing the Development of human personality-perfection in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* (1843).

2. Object of the Study

The writer also uses a psychoanalytic theory to continue this research. The steps this research are determining the type of the study, determining object of study, determining data and data source, determining technique of data collection, determining and determining technique of data analysis. The object of this study is *A Christmas Carol* novel which is written by Charles Dickens. This novel is analyzed by psychoanalytic approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two sources that are needed to do this research. It is primary data source data source and secondary data source. The primary data source of the study is *A Christmas Carol* novel which is written by Charles Dickens.

Secondary data sources are internet, article, book and author's biography and the other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection is library research. The steps are as follows: reading the Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* novel (1843) in many times, browsing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study, identifying the problem and finding the data, and taking notes of the important data, both primary and secondary data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It focused on the structural elements of novel and psychoanalytic approach. The analysis uses word, phrase, clauses, and sentences as the data research. Then, the data reports will contain dialogues and narrations.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

The researcher uses psychoanalytic approach to develop this study. In this research, the writer focuses on development of human personality-perfection of the major character in *A Christmas Carol* novel. It is based on psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud. The writer focuses on structure of personality which is divided by three points namely *Id*, *Ego*, and *Superego* which is known as the personality structure of the character.

1. The *Id*

The *Id* is the biological aspect and the original system in personality. The *id* represents the biological substation of humans, the sources of all drive energy (Pervin, 1984: 77). *Id* is something desirability that are hidden in the

heart. It is unknown part, unconscious, irrational, selfish, egoistic, and the most of them is to be a winner.

The first *id* begins when Scrooge heard the information from two panhandlers who said that there were many poor and destitute people who were not yet go to Union workhouse and shortage of foods. Most of them choose to die. Through his *id* presses his *ego*, where the *id* said that it will give benefit to world to decrease the surplus population. Scrooge feels to be happy when all poor people die because he will not have obligation to give the contribution for them. Therefore, Scrooge's *ego* attempts to satisfy his *id*. His *ego* decides that he will not give contribution to poor people and let them to die.

The second Scrooge's *id* is dominated by his *ego* that occurs when Marley's Ghost comes to Scrooge. Marley informs him that Scrooge would be visited by three ghosts for three nights. The Ghosts will guide him for being a better man. Scrooge's *id* said that it was a terrible thing if he met the Ghosts and thought that it was not good idea. To satisfy his *id*, Scrooge's *ego* refuses the presence of three Ghosts. His *ego* forces Marley to give the other way.

The third *id* is dominated by *superego*. It occurs when Scrooge wants to know the forms emotion of the people from the man's death that is shown by Phantom. His *id* feels to be anxious to find out the people's feeling when they know the creditor who died. They will feel to be happy or sad. From those, Scrooge's *id* wants the Phantom to show the people. The Phantom's finger points the house where the family lived. They feel happy when they know that a stingy creditor died. They think that they have a sag time to pay their debt. From this, Scrooge's *superego* comes and he realizes that he is in the wrong way.

The *id* is always supported by pleasure. It attempts to get the satisfaction from its desirability. When, the requirement does not give the satisfaction, it will cause anxiousness and tension. The *id* always forces to get

the happiness. But sometime the *id* also tries to avoid the badness which come suddenly and spontaneous.

2. The *Ego*

Hall and Lindzey (1981: 37) state that the *ego* is operated the reality principle that means gratification of instinct it delayed until an optimum time when human being can get the most pleasure with the least of unpleasant consequences. The *ego* has function to make the reality action in conscious, preconscious, and unconscious. It attempts to satisfy the *id* through reality and social. It thinks about the advantages of the action before it decides to do it or sometimes the *ego* will leave the impulse. The *id*'s impulse can be fulfilled through delays its satisfaction but finally the *ego* will take the action in time and place exactly to fulfill *id*'s impulse. The *ego* also reduces the tension that is caused by impulse that can not be fulfilled. Here, the *ego* tries to find the reality object that appropriates to the *id*'s imagination.

The first *ego* is dominated by the *id*. It occurs when Scrooge's nephew comes to Scrooge's office. He invites Scrooge to dinner in his house at Christmas Eve. His *id* does not want to celebrate Christmas. Then his *id* forces his *ego* to refuse Fred's inviting to dine.

The second *ego* occurs when Scrooge debates to his nephew who is Fred. Fred informs that God will bless and will give safety for them at Christmas. Suddenly, his clerk (Cratchit) gives applause to Fred. Scrooge's *ego* said that Cratchit should not give applause to Fred. Scrooge also threatens him that he will be stopped from his job if he defends Fred.

The third *ego* of Scrooge is dominated by his *id*. It occurs when two beggars come to Scrooge's firm. They asked contribution to Scrooge for poor and destitute. Scrooge thinks that poor people should not merry in Christmas because they do not have enough money. His *ego* decides that he will not donate his money and forces them to go away from his office soon.

The fourth *ego* appears when Scrooge speaks to his clerk in his firm. Scrooge's *ego* forces Cratchits to work in Christmas. He does not give holiday to Cratchit at the time. Scrooge thinks that he will get a big loss in his company if he pays his clerk a day without working. His *ego* decides in order to Cratchit to work in Christmas.

The fifth *ego* occurs when Ghost of Christmas Past shows to Scrooge about his past. There gets dispute between Scrooge and his fiancé. His fiancé chooses to leave Scrooge because he has changed and choose to chase the money than everything. From this shadow, it makes Scrooge be angry and wants to leave the place.

3. The *Superego*

Superego is the sociological aspect that represents the moral branch of our functioning, containing the ideals we strict for and the punishment (guilt) we expect when we have gone against our ethical code (Pervin, 1984: 76). *Superego* is aspect personality that gives the standard moral. It has the assessment orientation namely wrong or true. *Superego* works to perfect the behavior. It attempts to pressure all things from the *id* that can not be accept and it efforts to make the *ego* can be ideal. It comes in unconscious, preconscious, and unconscious.

The first *superego* occurs when Scrooge is visited by Ghost of Christmas Present. The Ghost will bring Scrooge to see his past. His *superego* decides to accept its guidance. He believes that the Ghost of Christmas Present will give goodness for him.

The second *superego* is more dominant than his *id*. It occurs when Ghost of Christmas Present shows the signs of Tiny Tim's death. Scrooge's *id* appears that if many poor people died, they can decrease the surplus population in the world. But his *superego* comes and reduces his *id*. Scrooge

feels pity to Tiny Tim who actually is poor person. From his *superego*, he begged to Ghost to give long time to Tiny Tim to live in the world.

The third *superego* appears when Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come comes to Scrooge. It brings Scrooge to see bad event that will happen to Scrooge in future if he does not change his bad behavior. Scrooge's *superego* appears when he submits his fate to the ghost. He knows that it will guide him and he decides to accept the Ghost's guidance.

The fourth *superego* appears when Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come shows a human corpse that lies down in bed. Scrooge does not know who the human corpse but he guesses that it is him. His *superego* realizes that he will take the event as his lesson live.

The fifth *superego* occurs when Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come invites Scrooge to see a grave. He sees his name that is written in gravestone. He is shock and afraid. His *superego* realizes that he has changed his behaviors and he is not before.

The sixth *superego* appears when Scrooge waits Crachits in his office at Christmas. But, that day Crachits came late. His *superego* comes when Scrooge gives surprise to Crachit through rises his wages and helps his family. He also asks Crachits to buy a coal to warm the office room. In the day, Scrooge gives to Crachit a holiday and he will celebrate Christmas with him together.

D. Conclusion

After the researcher researches *A Christmas Carol* novel using psychoanalytic, the researcher takes conclusion such as:

First, from the structural analysis, *A Christmas Carol* novel has a good quality which gives a moral lesson to the readers. The author draws a lesson that the wealth can subordinate the human that can cause the negative behavior and money is not everything that can take control our life. Here, the

character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, and theme influence each other. All of those aspects related one other and became a good literary work.

Second, based on psychoanalytic analysis, it shows the conflict as the result of the contradiction between the *id* and the *ego*. As a human, Scrooge tends to fill his *id* when he wants to get wealth. Here, his personality, it is dominated by his *id*. So the *superego* as the person's moral code does not take a part in his personality. Then, Dickens also shows the development of human personality-perfection in the major character, Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge realizes and develops his personality to be a good man, it is caused by the appearance of three ghosts which realize and guide Scrooge from his error way. There gets the personality transformation to be better. The people usually undergo the development of personality which is caused by the contradiction that is between *id* and *superego*. It is story that Charles Dickens shows in this novel. The novel describes Scrooge's personality and his life from poor to be a rich man who is greedy. Finally Scrooge realizes from his wrong and develops his personality to be a good man who respects Christmas and the other.

This novel describes about the important of social life. To explore this novel, the researcher would like to suggest to the next researcher to analysis *A Christmas Carol* novel with the different approach. For example, she or he can use Marxist approach because the novel reflects about the difference of social status that occurs between the major character and the society. Here, the major character has high position as the superiority and the society as the inferiority.

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